

scrub—leptospermum, acacia, "blue bush," &c., besides grass, &c.

From the foregoing remarks it will be noticed that all the rookeries are in good and natural condition except the small ones on Red Cliff and the Nobby respectively. Although the season was ripe for birding parties for oil, food, &c., I did not hear of any being at work. The chief traffic in connection with the birds is evidently during egg-gathering season. The idea of registering names and addresses of egg-gatherers might be tried as an experiment the ensuing season. No doubt Mr. C. W. Maclean, Chief Inspector of Fisheries, who administers the *Game Act* (and to whom I have forwarded a similar report to this), will take action in the matter, and cause some arrangements to be made for taking the census of egg-gatherers, with a view of ascertaining, and, if necessary, regulating the traffic.\*

I cannot close this report without expressing my indebtedness to the brothers Smith for their very willing assistance to me while inspecting the various rookeries.—ARCHD. J. CAMPBELL.

### Better Protection for Victorian Birds.

"HISTORY repeats itself." Some years ago the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria bestirred itself in the matter of the better protection of our useful and ornamental indigenous birds.† The Commissioner of the day, who administered the *Game Act*, was interviewed by deputation, with the result that the schedule of protected birds was considerably augmented, and took nearly its present form.

With the experience of 17 years, and some of the species still decreasing in number, the Club has moved again, appointing as a sub-committee Messrs. G. A. Keartland, D. Le Souëf, and Robert Hall—by the way, all members of the Aust. O.U.—to bring up recommendations. Judging by the report (*vide Naturalist*, pp. 5-7, May, 1902) the sub-committee must have worked most assiduously, especially Mr. Keartland, upon whom devolved all the secretarial work.

The following are the amendments proposed to close seasons on the present schedule:—

\* Mr. Maclean has already moved in the matter, and upon his recommendation the Minister of Public Works by proclamation will close the Red Cliff and Nobby rookeries for four years from September next. Notice boards to that effect will be erected at the landing and other places on the island. Notices will also be posted requiring egg-gatherers to the "open" rookeries to register their names and addresses. Mr. A. P. Smith, Cowes, has been appointed an Assistant Inspector under the Act to see these regulations carried out locally.—A. J. C.

† See "The Protection of Our Native Birds," *Victorian Naturalist*, vol. i., p. 161 (Feb., 1885), and *Southern Science Record*, vol. i. (New Series), p. 57 (March, 1885).

*The whole year.*—Acanthizæ or Tits (all species) and Babblers (all species) are added in addition to those already partially protected—namely, all birds known as Cranes or Herons, Coachwhip-Bird, Cuckoos, Larks, Nightjars, Shrike-Tit, Sittellas, Swamp or Ground Parrakeet, Thickheads, Thrushes, Tree-Creepers, Wedge-bill, and Wood-Swallows.

*From the first day of August.*—Teal and Wild Ducks of any species to be extended to the last day of January.

*From the first day of August.*—Quails, Bronze-winged and other Wild Pigeons, to be extended to the last day of March.

Ibises are to be removed from *the whole year* to a partial protection. This is a questionable step, seeing how extremely useful Ibises are. The Mallard Hen remains only partially protected. This most interesting bird should undoubtedly enjoy *the whole year*.

In the matter of nomenclature it is to be hoped that when the list is finally published the later or more acceptable names of some of the birds will be employed as well as the old, if it is found necessary to use the latter at all. One of the aims of the Aust. O.U. is to bring the *Game Acts* of the various States into line, and everything done in order now will naturally assist that very desirable object.

## South Australian Ornithological Association.

THE annual meeting of this association was held at the residence of Dr. A. M. Morgan on the evening of the 7th March. There was a good attendance, and Mr. A. H. C. Zietz occupied the chair. The secretary, Mr. J. W. Mellor, read the third annual report, which showed that the association had made steady progress, relating to ornithology, and recording notes of interest gathered in different parts of the States. The secretary's oological collection now contained 500 Australasian species. He was the first South Australian to gain this distinction. The financial statement showed that the receipts had a little more than covered working expenses, and had left a cash balance. The report and financial statement were adopted. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. M. Symonds Clark; vice-president, Mr. E. Ashby; secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. W. Mellor; these officers to form the committee of management. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Morgan for his support in providing a place of meeting, and to Mr. J. W. Mellor for piloting the association from its inception. In continuation of the meeting, Mr. M. Symonds Clark occupied the chair, and a number of exhibits was shown. Mr. E. Ashby displayed seven specimens of the Acanthiza family, commonly called Tits—viz., *Acanthiza apicalis*, *A. pusilla*, *A. nana*, *A. lineata*, *A. inornata*, *A. reguloides*, and *A. chrysorrhoa*. Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, F.L.S., showed the Collared Plain-Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*), and species of *Sericornis* or Scrub-Wrens, viz., *Sericornis osculans* and *S. frontalis*, while Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited *S. maculata*, from Kangaroo Island. Mr. J. W. Mellor showed a specimen of the Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia tranquilla*), and a clutch of eggs of the rare Laughing Owl of New Zealand (*Sceloglaux albifacies*), of which only a few clutches are in existence. Dr. Morgan tabled specimens in oology from this State. A lengthy discussion ensued upon the various exhibits shown.